



News from
SALEM COUNTY
Office of Public Information

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For Immediate Release: July 19, 2012

Salem County Included in Disaster Declaration Signed Today by President Obama

(PILESGROVE, NJ)-- Salem County Freeholder and Public Safety Chair, Dale Cross announced this afternoon that he was informed by Director of Emergency Services and Emergency Management Coordinator Jeff Pompper that President Obama has issued a disaster declaration for Atlantic, Cumberland and Salem Counties.

According to Cross, "this is great news not only for Salem County but also for all of the municipalities affected by the June 30th severe thunderstorms. The storm, which occurred in the middle of the night and required a prolonged response over a weekend, had huge costs associated with the response and recovery. This presidential declaration opens the door to have the burden lessened for the taxpayers making the county and towns eligible for compensation of 75 percent of the costs."

The declaration was granted for the request submitted by then Acting Governor Kim Guadagno on July 11 after she visited all three counties and witnessed the damage.

Freeholder Director Julie Acton stated "as we said when this request was submitted, the response of Salem County would have been the same regardless of anticipating a declaration. We remain intent to protect our communities during any emergencies. The wellbeing of the citizens of Salem County and the public servants who protect them is the only thing we can think about when disaster strikes. After the urgent needs are met, to have this assistance from the federal government to help us recover from the unexpected stresses on our county budget is most welcome and we appreciate all of the agencies who participated in the application."

Director Pompper also advised the Freeholder Board that this declaration only addresses public assistance. "This declaration allows for municipal and county governments to apply for funds to repair or replace storm-damaged public property, and compensate the cost of additional emergency crews. It also provides reimbursement for private nonprofit groups engaged in community service."

The declaration does not include assistance for private property owners or other personal assistance at this time. Decisions for additional assistance may be made at a later date pending further damage assessment results. The Office of Emergency Management reminds individuals to report losses to their personal homeowners or renters insurance and to document all damage.

The Salem County Office of Emergency Management will work with local emergency management officials to determine the final eligible costs and submit the required documentation to FEMA.